

## II. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer)

7. (Currently Amended) A Nucleotide sequence harbouring the promoter controlling the expression of the *apxIV* gene.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~n~~Nucleotide sequence according to eClaim 7, characterized in that it comprises the DNA fragment from position 451 to 1132 of SEQ ID NO: 5 or a subfragment thereof still having promoter activity.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~n~~Nucleotide sequence according to eClaim 7, characterized in that it comprises the DNA fragment FROM POSITION 617 TO 641 OF SEQ ID NO:5.

Claims 10-19 (Cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer)